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Editorial

Redouble efforts to defend human rights

This year's commemoration of International Human Rights Day is especially relevant because of the many victories the people have achieved in defending their human rights in the face of the US-Arroyo regime's relentless and unbridled fascist violence and repression.

These victories are a result of the people's solid unity and militant resistance to fascism and repression. Within and outside the country, there are resounding cries of condemnation for the US-Arroyo regime. The unified resistance of various sectors, organizations, institutions and personalities are an effective shield against the campaign of killings, abductions and other fascist atrocities and repression against the people.

Among the significant victories achieved was the guilty verdict handed down last March by the Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) on the US-Arroyo regime for widespread and systematic violations of civil, political and socio-economic-cultural rights, and of the Filipino people's sovereignty and independence. The arraignment and trial, which took place in the city of The Hague in The Netherlands was made possible through the initiative of human rights advocates and patriotic, democratic and progressive organizations, institutions and personalities. Victims and witnesses were given the opportunity to expose and prove before an international court the acts of violence committed by the US-Arroyo regime and its armed forces.

Another victory was the issuance of United Nations Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur Philip Alston of his report on the extrajudicial killings of activists, reporters, peasants and Moro people. In his final report released last November,

Alston strongly assailed the regime's counterrevolutionary policy—Oplan Bantay Laya I and II in particular—which he said was behind the killings and fascist violence perpetrated by the military since 2001.

Alston also scored the paradoxical system of justice under the Arroyo regime, where it is the victims who are vilified and prosecuted, instead of their killers. He cited in particular the establishment by Malacañang of the Inter-Agency Legal Advisory Group (IALAG) that drafts legal measures against progressive organizations and personalities. The legal measures go hand in glove with the extrajudicial measures being undertaken by the regime's armed forces.

The killings and other violations of human rights in the Philippines have earned condemnation from various parts of the globe. Among those who have assailed the extrajudicial executions and other atrocities are international human rights institutions, workers, parliamentarians, mass media personnel, the European Commission as well as US senators and congressmen



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who oppose human rights violations and their governments' condonation of such abuses.

Even the report issued by the Arroyo-created Melo Commission could not but cite the AFP and its officials' main responsibility for the rampant killings of activists. Although it took pains to limit accountability to particular officers, the Melo Report could not deny that the killings have been perpetrated by soldiers under direct or indirect orders from their superiors.

No less than the Supreme Court has likewise taken a stand against the wanton abuse of human rights. It has come out with the writs of amparo and habeas data as additional judicial instruments that could be invoked by victims of the state's armed forces. These instruments, coupled with the people's collective action have already borne fruit. The Supreme Court also took the cudgels for the victims when it ordered the release of Rep. Crispin Beltran and the dismissal of the trumped-up murder charges filed by the PNP against Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Overseas, another victory has come in the form of Comrade Jose

Ma. Sison's release and the junking of the spurious charges against him.

These major victories notwithstanding, they do not resolve the US-Arroyo regime's relentless and unmitigated acts of violence against the people. There has been no letup in the regime's suppression and atrocities against the people. There are now close to a thousand victims of killings and tens of thousands of victims of other military abuses.

The Arroyo regime's brutality is mounting as it desperately tries to suppress all resistance to its desire to rule beyond 2010. The ruling regime can be expected to intensify its fascism and terrorism against the people in the coming months and years. It has various schemes up its sleeve to impose barefaced fascist rule and prolong its hold on power.

The Filipino people must be ever courageous and intensify their struggles to thwart these schemes and eventually put an end to the US-Arroyo regime.

All antifascist forces and the entire people must strengthen their unity and resistance in the


face of the puppet and reactionary regime's continued dominance and intensified brutality.

All possible means must be used to rapidly and broadly expose and resist cases of military abuse and other acts of state violence. Organizations, committees and groups devoted to the defense of human rights must be set up in every place in the country—in every barrio, sitio, area and street. A system of rapid reporting from the village all the way to national human rights advocacy organizations and the mass media must be set up and enhanced, and assistance asked from reliable attorneys, church people and the like.

Special attention must likewise be given to submitting prompt reports to the Joint Monitoring Committee, which observes the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) and receives reports on violations of this agreement.

The people must launch sizeable mass actions and other forms of protest to expose cases of human rights violations. They must effectively combine marches and rallies, trooping to radio and television stations, the conduct of fact-finding missions, filing cases in court and invoking appropriate writs or other helpful judicial instruments, asking assistance from progressive representatives and legislative committees, linking up with, and reporting, to international human rights institutions, among others.

These actions and protests must reecho throughout the world. The struggle against the ruling regime's fascist violence is a critical part of the overall effort to resist the US-Arroyo regime. They raise the people's awareness on the need to put an end to Arroyo's corrupt and brutal reactionary and puppet rule. **AB**

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Karapatan logs more than 16,000 victims of human rights violations

The human rights watchdog Karapatan has documented up to 330 incidents of human rights abuses this year that have victimized 16,307 people. There were 68 victims of extrajudicial killings; 35 victims of other politically motivated assassinations; 26 victims of enforced disappearance who remain missing to date; eight victims of abduction who were later found or released; 29 victims of torture; 129 victims of illegal arrest; 116 victims of illegal detention; 330 victims of threats, harassment and intimidation; 7,542 victims of forcible evacuation; and 3,600 victims of hamletting.

Karapatan said the number of victims of extrajudicial killings this year is lower than the 209 victims in 2006 due to the intense pressure brought to bear on the Arroyo regime from the international community. It cited the final report submitted by UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston last November 27 that stated that it is the Arroyo regime's "counterinsurgency" strategy that serves as the framework for the extrajudicial killings; the US Senate decision to tie additional military aid to the Arroyo government's compliance with Alston's recommendations to resolve the problem of political killings and punish the perpetrators; and the judgment by the Permanent People's Tribunal that the Arroyo and Bush regimes are both guilty of widespread and systematic viola-

tions of human rights, economic plunder and transgressions on the Filipino people's sovereignty.

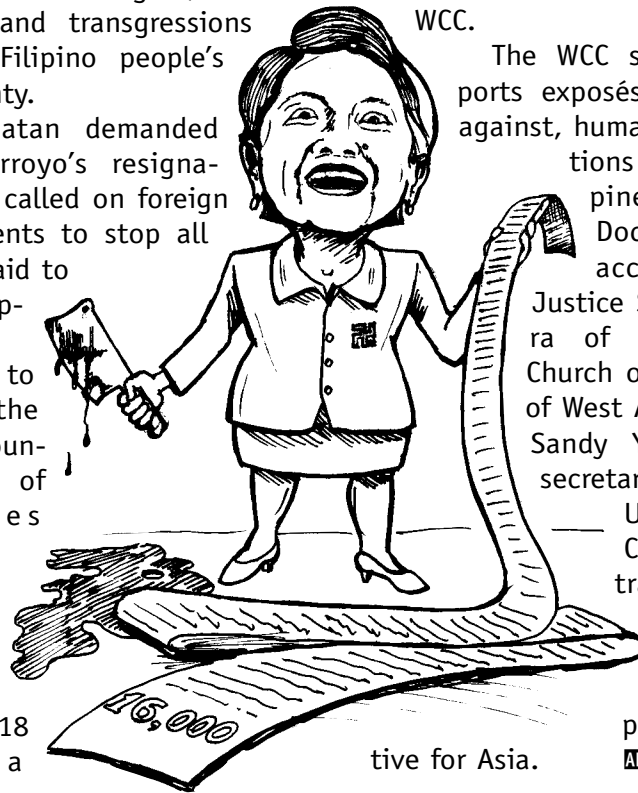
Karapatan demanded Gloria Arroyo's resignation and called on foreign governments to stop all military aid to the Philippines.

Prior to this, the World Council of Churches called on the Arroyo regime last November 18 to put a

stop to human rights violations in the Philippines. The WCC issued its call during the visit to the Philippines of its secretary-general Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia to meet with families of victims of extrajudicial killings, representatives of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and leaders of member and non-member churches of the WCC.

The WCC staunchly supports exposés, and actions against, human rights violations in the Philippines. Reverend Doctor Kobia was accompanied by Justice Sophia Adinyira of the Anglican Church of the Province of West Africa; Rev. Dr. Sandy Yule, national secretary for Christian Unity, Uniting Church of Australia; and Dr. Matthews George Chunnakara, WCC program execu-

tive for Asia.



More than 200,000 children are victims of state violence

Up to 215,233 children became victims of various forms of human rights violations from 2001 to July 2006.

In a study, the Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC) said that the children were victimized in more than 800 cases of human rights violations. Fifty-eight of them were killed while 58 escaped death. Ten were abducted and remain missing. Forty were maimed and 17 suffered various forms of torture. Up to 215,060 children were among those who were

forced to evacuate due to intense military operations.

CRC also reported five child victims of sexual harassment and three victims of rape by soldiers. There were 51 victims of illegal searches, 63 victims of coercion, 69 victims of illegal arrest and detention, 40 victims of beatings and 196 victims of threats and intimidation. Up to 106 children during the period covered were orphaned and witnessed the killing by the military of their parents or relatives.



3,000 refugees flee in Surigao

Almost 3,000 peasants have been evacuated from 12 communities in Surigao del Sur as forces of the Eastern Mindanao Command relentlessly conduct military operations against the New People's Army.

Karapatan-Surigao del Sur said that the refugees would probably be spending Christmas in evacuation centers in the towns of Lianga, San Agustin, San Miguel, Cagwait and Tago due to the military operations begun since the latter part of October.

Earlier, military elements threatened and intimidated Manobo folk living in 12 barangays in the towns of Lianga and San Agustin. The harassment came after the tribespeople complained about the growing militarization of their communities since companies mining gold, copper and coal pen-

etrated Andap Valley.

The Manobo folk said more than 500 soldiers from the 58th IB had encamped in remote villages of Lianga and San Agustin. The soldiers occupied homes and schools in the communities. Since November 1, the residents have been forced to evacuate to the town centers out of fear.

The soldiers arrived in Barangays Simowao and Emeral, Lianga in the last week of October armed with heavy artillery. They interrogated and listed down the names of pupils age 7 to 10 years and ordered them to inform soldiers about the NPA's presence in the area. They also set up checkpoints where they searched everyone passing through, listed down their names and cellphone numbers and demanded identification cards, among others.

Residents were likewise prohibited from leaving their barangays. Seven literacy schools for the lumad people and a barangay high school have been forced to close down. An estimated 500 elementary school pupils and 177 high school students along with 27 teachers have been affected by the operations.

On November 11, the military arrested Ritchie Enot, 19, a resident of Upper Oregon, San Isidro, Lianga while he was gathering rattan in the forest. The soldiers forced him to serve as guide in their operations and released him only after 16 days.

The military has been monitoring the movements and economic activities of residents. Some families have been eating only one meal a day since soldiers prevented them from working in their farms. **AB**

Violations in Quezon, Panay and Cebu

A reporter has been placed under surveillance, a Bayan Muna regional coordinator escapes an abduction attempt and 10 farmers and an infant were illegally arrested in separate cases of military abuse in Quezon, Panay and Cebu between the third week of November and the first week of December.

December 3. Suspected military elements surveilled Criselda Cabangon, 24, a reported of *Ang Diaryo Natin*, a Quezon-based newspaper. Cabangon, a member of the militant National Union of Journalists of the Philippines was a former student leader at the Enverga University in Luce-

na City. Cabangon's neighbors said unidentified men had been inquiring on her whereabouts.

November 26. Five men aboard motorcycles attempted to abduct or kill Bayan Muna-Panay regional coordinator Hope Hervilla. Hervilla said her family had noticed the men loitering near their house in Barangay Dungon A, Jaro District, Iloilo City before 7 a.m. One of the men even peeped into the house as if to confirm the identity of the occupants. Hervilla was able to leave her house only after local officials sent armed escorts to accompany her.

November 18. Combined elements of the

78th IB and the PNP arrested 10 farmers and a nine-month old baby in Tuburan, Cebu. The farmers were all residents of Barangay Marmol, Tuburan, Cebu and members of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Marmol, one of the affiliate organizations of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. They are Jocelyn Arias; Florencia Mojado; Arsenio and Anastacia Pasumala; Abello and Lolita Arias; Tomas and Elizabeth Mainit; and Ceasar and Avelina Balibad and their infant daughter Rose. They were accused of theft after they had harvested crops that they themselves had planted. The case was filed by a landlord who claimed to be the owner of their farms. **AB**



Military abducts NDFP consultant

Elements of the 5th ID abducted National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) consultant Elizabeth Principe, 56, after she had undergone a medical checkup in Quezon City last November 28.

In a statement, Principe said she was blindfolded, handcuffed and forced to listen to loud noises for 72 hours straight. She was interrogated by the Intelligence Service Group at the Philippine Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio and denied the right to counsel.

Aside from other pending cases against her, the military is ridiculously linking her to the protest action launched by Sen. Antonio Trillanes and Gen. Danilo Lim last November 29 in Makati City.

The NDFP scored Principe's abduction and demanded her immediate release, saying that as an NDFP consultant, Principe was covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) duly signed by the government and the NDFP. The JASIG confers protection against arrest and surveillance on negotiators, consultants and staff involved in the peace talks.

Reps. Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño have also filed a resolution in Congress calling for Principe's release as a goodwill gesture. They said her release would pave the way for the resumption of peace talks between the NDFP and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

Principe said that she was surfaced on December 1 against the military's wishes to derail public attention from growing calls for Gloria Arroyo's resignation. She pointed out that this was the reason why she was the only one who has been surfaced among 52 persons accused of rebellion by the Department of Justice.

Principe is but the latest NDFP consultant abducted by thugs of the US-Arroyo regime. Her husband Leo Velasco, a member of the CPP Central Committee and a fellow NDFP consultant was abducted in Cagayan de Oro City last February. Also abducted in 2006 were consultants Prudencio Calubid and Rogelio Calubad, who were seized along with some of their staff and other civilian companions.

Two anti-Arroyo protests



Two successive protest actions were launched against the Arroyo regime in the last days of November.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and patriotic soldiers shocked the public and the regime when they walked out of their hearing at the Makati Regional Trial Court on November 29. With their soldier guards in tow, they marched to the Manila Peninsula, one of the posh hotels in Makati City. They were joined by Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Bishop Emeritus Antonio Labayen and others until they were defeated by Arroyo's military and police forces. Four soldiers belonging to the "Magdalo" group escaped.

Through their protest action, Trillanes proclaimed nationwide and overseas their anger and disgust at the regime's corruption and brutality. They underscored the tireless and resolute struggle of patriotic officers and other soldiers against the regime and the AFP. Despite their retreat, Lim stressed that this was not the end of their battle.

They likewise confronted Arroyo with the political crisis now battering her rule. They condemned her use of the AFP in her fascist and terrorist campaign against all those opposed to her rule. As Lim declared in his manifesto, they could not allow a regime fraught with corruption, tainted with fraud, and steeped in deception and brutality to continue holding power.

Arroyo showed how terrified she was when she ordered the suppression of the protesting soldiers. She also ordered the police to arbitrarily arrest 51 media personnel and other civilian supporters, including Guingona and Labayen. Later that night, the police enforced a five-hour curfew in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog.

The AFP leadership admitted to having blocked the entry of soldiers suspected of supporting Trillanes. It was hard put denying the seriousness of the rift within the AFP and the determination of anti-Arroyo elements within its ranks.

The next day, 5,000 people launched a protest action at the Liwasang Bonifacio to commemorate the birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio and demand Arroyo's ouster.

The mass action was attended by members of the

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Anakpawis, Anakbayan and other allied groups. They planned on marching from Liwasang Bonifacio to Mendiola but were barred from doing so by the police.

They assailed the police's violent handling of Trillanes' group, their civilian comrades and the media. They demanded the immediate release of the former vice president, who was slated to join them in their rally that day. They also railed against the regime for setting up illegal checkpoints, arbitrarily imposing a curfew and arresting civilians caught in the streets during its enforcement.

Similar mass actions were held in other parts of the country. In Davao City, the KMU-Southern Min-

danao chapter led a protest action joined by 4,000 workers and activists from the provinces of Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley. Two groups launched a rally in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. BAYAN likewise launched protest actions in Iloilo City along with the church sector.

In a statement, International League of Peoples' Struggles chair Jose Ma. Sison said that it was clear that there was much to be done before gigantic mass actions could be launched against the regime. He said it was not enough to rely on a simple call to mobilize hundreds of thousands of people to go the streets. When protests muster at least 100,000 people, he said, only then could the military be expected

to withdraw support from Arroyo.

Sison also said one could not just duplicate the victories of the people's uprisings of 1986 and 2001. One factor that distances the current situation from the past is Arroyo's readiness to use the most brutal measures to suppress gigantic mass actions of the people.

In any case, he said, the regime can never put a stop to protests and thwart an uprising joined by millions of people. The longer Arroyo stays in power, the more crimes she will commit against the people and the more cases of corruption and fraud she will be involved in. This can only push the broadest sections of the people, including patriotic soldiers, to launch more coordinated, bigger and more decisive protest actions. **AB**

Bills to counter oil price hikes

Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anakpawis have filed three bills in Congress to blocked relentless oil price increases:

- ♦House Bill 3029 that restores government regulation of the oil industry;

- ♦House Bill 3030 that stipulates the centralized importation of petroleum products; and

- ♦House Bill 3031 that nationalizes anew Petron Corporation.

The progressive lawmakers said HB 3029 does way with the Oil Deregulation Law which allows oil companies to arbitrarily raise petroleum prices. HB 3030 on the other hand calls for the government's centralized procurement of oil products wherever such products are cheapest. HB 3031 stipulates the government's reacquisition of the majority shares of Petron which was privatized in accordance with the oil industry's deregulation.

They said that the three bills are concrete measures that deal rationally with the problem of oil price hikes in the country. They

were filed as a series of oil price increases were set to hit the country before the end of 2007 and by the New Year. The progressive congressmen particularly cited statements by oil companies and by Gloria Arroyo herself on an impending ₱4 increase in the price per liter of petroleum products before Christmas.

The militant lawmakers called on consumers and other sectors to support the bills which will mitigate the effects of spiralling oil prices. They scored the Arroyo regime for leaving the people defenseless against rising prices. In claiming that it can do nothing to stop price increases, the government shows its partiality towards monopoly oil companies and its lack of determination to solve the energy crisis facing the country, added the progressive congressmen.

In a related development, driv-

ers and operators' associations began a series of protest actions against the Oil Deregulation Law and to push the removal of the Expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT) on oil products, among other issues.

In Manila, some 500 members of the Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsiper at Opereytor Nationwide (PISTON) marched to Malacañang in the afternoon of November 25. They staged a one-hour program along Morayta after police forces blocked them before reaching Mendiola Bridge.

PISTON's allied organizations, on the other hand, launched "selective strikes" in certain areas in Batangas and Laguna in Southern Tagalog while members of the Nagkahiusang Drivers sa Sugbo (NADSU) launched a caravan from Mandaue City to Cebu City. Protest actions were also launched in Bacolod City in Negros and Davao City in Southern Mindanao. All these were preparations for a coordinated national drivers' protest this December. **AB**

An alternative to the sham agrarian reform program

An agrarian reform bill has been filed in the Lower House as a substitute for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program which is set to end in June 2008. The bill was filed by representatives of Anakpawis, Bayan Muna and Gabriela Women's Party in November.

Compared to the sham, inutile and anti-peasant CARP, the "Genuine Agrarian Reform Act of 2007" is progressive, if not radical in its objectives, scope, timeframe, priorities and method of land distribution. If the so-called peasant beneficiaries of CARP broke their backs keeping up with amortizations, the new bill calls for distributing land to landless peasants for free.

CARP failed to resolve the problem of landlessness among the peasantry for 20 years. Instead, it worsened land monopoly by landlords, the comrador bourgeoisie and foreign agribusinesses. In fact, no less than the Department of Agrarian Reform has admitted that 26% of all CARP

"beneficiaries" have been forced to sell lands that have already been awarded to them. The proportion goes as high as 41% in Nueva Ecija, 53% in Laguna and 35% in Iloilo. The US-Arroyo regime has, of late, further opened the country to foreign agribusiness corporations.

CARP is no different from previous land reform laws and programs, including the US-Macapagal regime's Land Reform Code and the US-Marcos dictatorship's PD 27. Aside from Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac, among the cases that offer striking proof of CARP's inutility are the sorry plights of farmers in Hacienda Looc in Batangas and in Sumilao, Bukidnon. (*see related article*)

The people have thus witnessed these past years sustained, militant and determined action and resistance by the peasantry

for genuine land reform and the abrogation of CARP. In farms, streets and other areas—the broad masses of the people must be aroused, organized and mobilized and their support gained for the alternative bill for genuine agrarian reform.

Landlords and reactionaries can be expected to maneuver in Congress against the bill's passage into law. The people can nonetheless be made aware of the problems of landlessness, suffering, poverty and hunger in the countryside. They can also be made conscious of the US-Arroyo regime's grave neglect and utter inutility in solving the problems of the peasantry, the reactionary character of Congress and the need for all-out action to achieve genuine land reform. In particular, the objectives of the new bill for genuine agrarian reform are to

- > abolish land monopoly and implement free land distribution and eradicate all forms of oppression and exploitation in the countryside;

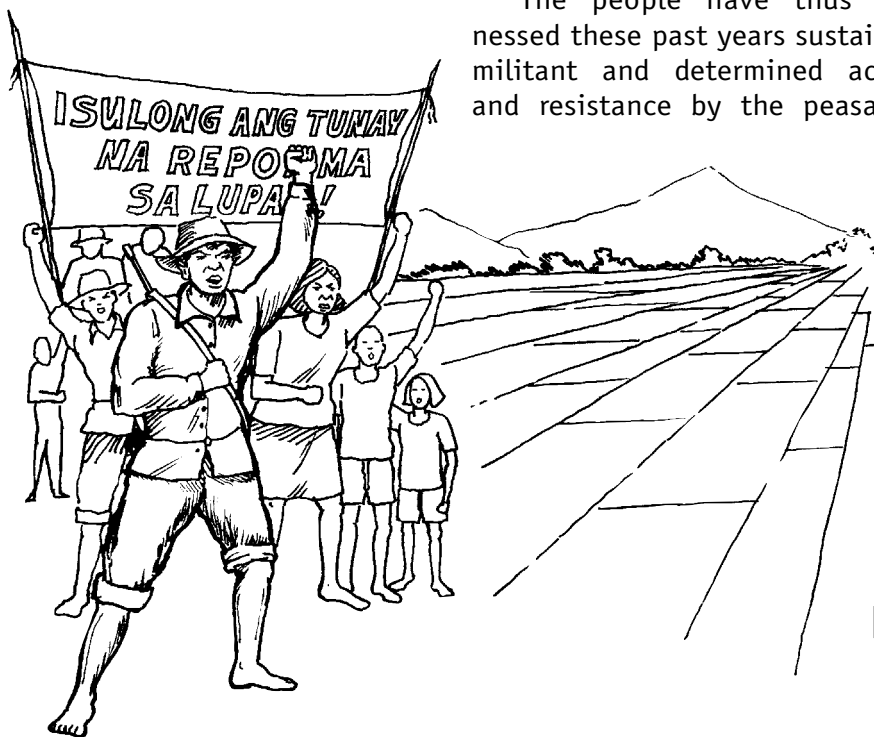
- > transform farmer-beneficiaries into efficient food producers through a holistic and integrated program of support services;

- > raise incomes and living standards through cooperatives and other forms of labor exchange or mutual aid to improve productivity;

- > adopt mechanisms that would prevent the restoration of land monopoly and ensure that farmer-beneficiaries do not lose their land; and

- > launch the thoroughgoing development of the agricultural sector and lay the foundation for national industrialization.

AB



The struggle of the Sumilao farmers

The following is an account of the long and arduous struggle being waged by the farmers of Sumilao, Bukidnon to reclaim their land. Their story provides startling proof of CARP's inutility to resolve widespread landlessness and the empty promises it offers to the peasant masses.

The Higaonon farmers who trekked 1,700 kilometers for two months from Sumilao, Bukidnon to pursue their right to 144 hectares of their ancestral land and stop it from being subjected to land-use conversion have arrived in Metro Manila. Several persons have staked their claim to the lands the farmers have been fighting for since the property was seized from them in the 1930s. In the 1970s, Norberto Quisumbing claimed the land, presenting a fake Spanish title to make it appear that the land had been his since the Spanish colonization period.

Under CARP in 1995, the disputed land was set for distribution to 137 Higaonon farmers who were members of the Mapadayonong Panaghiusa sa mga Lumad Alang sa Damlag (MAPALAD). They were granted a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) that raised their hopes of reclaiming their ancestral land after more than half a century.

But Quisumbing lobbied the

Department of Agrarian Reform to allow the land to be converted to agro-industrial use to exempt it from CARP coverage. He also conspired with the Sumilao local government as well as the provincial government to pass a resolution approving the land-use conversion.

The DAR disapproved Quisumbing's application since the conversion of prime agricultural lands was a violation of CARP. After he lodged an appeal at the Office of the President in 1996, however, Malacañang reversed DAR's decision and approved the land-use conversion. It rescinded the CLOA given to the Higaonon farmers.

Malacañang's decision spurred the desperate farmers to go on a hunger strike in 1997. The strike gained support from various sectors and government officials. The Ramos government was pressured into granting the farmers 100 hectares and Quisumbing 44 hectares. But the Supreme Court upheld Quisumbing's appeal, and the farmers lost due to a techni-

cality.

Close Arroyo ally Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco has since become another claimant since Quisumbing sold the land in 2002 to the Cojuangco-owned San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI) which intends to set up a hog farm in the property.

The farmers are now demanding the nullification of the sale and the return of their land. They have gained the support of the church sector and other peasant organizations such as the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

The eventual outcome of the Sumilao farmers' struggle is uncertain. Even now, they fear that DAR Secretary Nasser Pangandaman will fail them. When they came face to face with him in a dialogue last December 6, all Pangandaman did was to ask them and SMFI to submit their respective position papers instead of outrightly ordering SMFI to cease and desist from claiming the land. The farmers thus plan to march to Malacañang this coming December 7.

So long as no genuine land reform program exists, justice will continue to elude the Sumilao farmers and several millions of others like them.

AB



On the 90th anniversary of the October Revolution

The situation and challenges facing proletarian revolutionaries

Revolutionaries, Marxist-Leninist parties and workers' organizations in various parts of the world commemorated the October Revolution, the first victorious socialist revolution in history.

Under Comrade Vladimir Lenin and the communist party's leadership, the first proletarian dictatorship was set up on November 7, 1917,* which in turn led to the establishment of socialism. For close to five decades, the people of Russia (eventually the Soviet Union, which encompassed various other countries that underwent socialist revolution) journeyed along the path of unprecedented advance.

The enemy. The October Revolution triumphed in the face of the emergence of imperialism at the turn of the 20th century. It sig-

nalled the historic struggle of the proletariat against imperialism—the last and highest stage of capitalism. With the victory of the proletariat in Russia, they smashed a major link in the international imperialist system. Their triumph paved the way for the launching of new democratic and socialist revolutions in various parts of the world.

Despite its defeat in 1956 by revisionist traitors who instigated the restoration of the bourgeoisie in the Soviet Union, the October Revolution retains deep significance. After more than a century, imperialism has become even more parasitic and vicious with every new crisis besetting the international capitalist system.

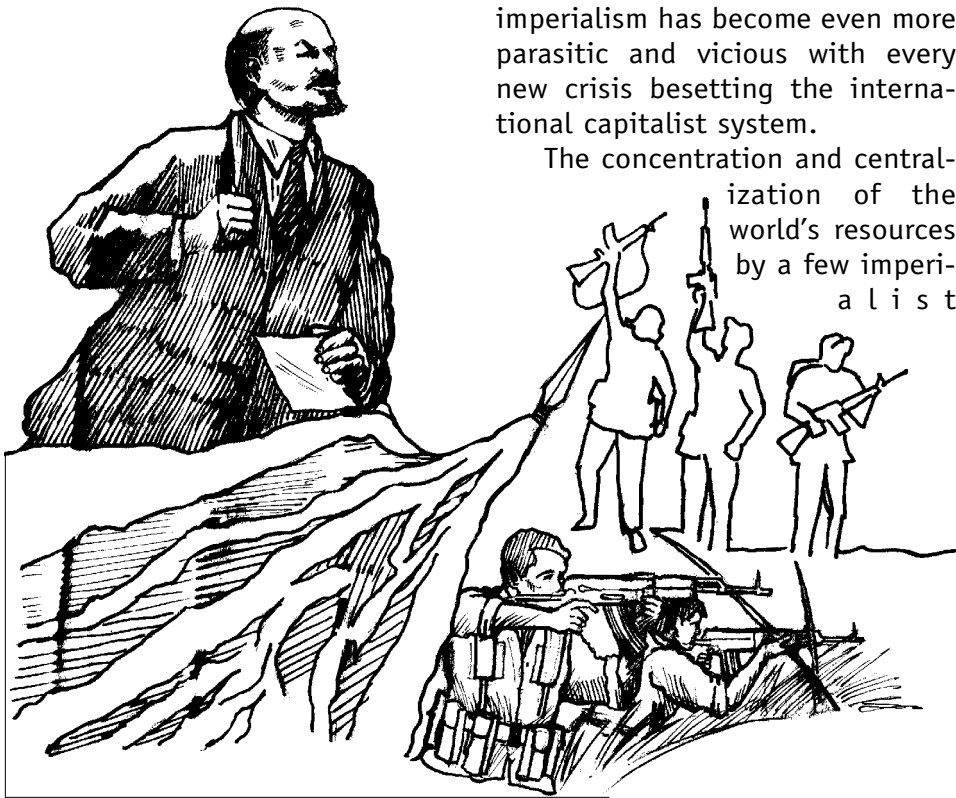
The concentration and centralization of the world's resources by a few imperialist

powers amid the growing poverty and oppression of most of the world's countries and peoples have accelerated under imperialism. The main contradiction in the world today is that between the imperialist powers and the majority impoverished and oppressed semicolonial and semifeudal countries. The people in semicolonial and semifeudal countries suffer the worst oppression and therefore are the most determined in ending imperialist exploitation through people's war.

Contradictions are intensifying between the ruling monopoly bourgeoisie and the working class in imperialist countries. This has been marked by the outbreak of protests and uprisings of workers and other impoverished sectors in the US, France, Germany and other countries in Europe. The struggles of migrant workers have also become significant in recent years.

Contradictions among imperialist powers have likewise intensified. The imperialists fight over control of backward and impoverished countries to use them as sources of raw materials and cheap labor, dumping grounds for surplus products and markets for surplus capital.

This contradiction has intensified with US imperialism's waging of its "war on terror" which it uses as the main pretext for imposing its power and influence over various parts of the globe. In recent years, the US has focused on the Philippines, Iraq, Afghanistan and Colombia and on intervening in many other backward countries.



**It is called the October Revolution because based on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia, the stronghold of the reactionary government fell on October 25.*



People's war in various countries. The October Revolution has demonstrated the correctness of waging armed struggle to smash the bourgeois state.

In Russia then and in other industrialized capitalist countries, the strategic means of overthrowing and replacing the state is through a quick armed uprising in times of revolutionary upsurge. On the other hand, in the Philippines and other backward, agrarian and unindustrialized countries where majority of the people are peasants living in the vast countryside, the strategic line to achieve victory for people's revolutions is through protracted people's war. This was starkly demonstrated by the victory of the Chinese Revolution in 1949.

These countries are considered the weakest links of imperialism where revolutionary struggle can rapidly advance. This has been proven many times in many countries in the past. It will be proven again in the future.

In Asia, the most significant people's wars led by Marxist-Leninist-Maoist communist parties are those in the Philippines and India. The revolutionary movements in these countries continue to gain victories in armed struggle, agrarian revolution and revolutionary base building.

The broad people's war in Nepal was on the verge of victory upon the overthrow of King Gyanendra's

rule and the establishment of a democratic republic with the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). The CPN-M has joined the parliamentary process along with other democratic classes even as it prepares for the resumption of armed struggle should the democratic process not be completed.

In Indonesia, the revolutionary armed struggle is in its initial stages, after the long period that had elapsed since the communist party and the revolutionary movement was defeated because of the absence of an armed component.

Meanwhile, North Korea continues to assert its independence and its anti-imperialist and socialist stance. The people of Afghanistan are also waging armed resistance against the war of aggression being launched by the US and the United Kingdom.

In Latin America, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) continues to wage armed struggle in Colombia. Cuba is resolute in its stance against imperialist bullying and in asserting its self-reliance. Venezuela is likewise unwavering in its assertion of independence and resistance to imperialism and has undertaken pro-people reforms under Pres. Hugo Chavez.

In the Middle East, the Palestinian people continue to struggle against Israeli rule and repression. The Kurdistan Workers Party is leading an armed struggle in Turkey for the establishment of an independent state for the Kurds.

The armed struggle being waged by patriotic Iraqi guerrilla forces against the US' war of aggression is going strong.

The great challenge against revisionism. In the Soviet Union and other former socialist coun-

tries, revisionists have overpowered genuine proletarian revolutionaries and have caused the restoration of capitalism. The revisionists have sprung from party and government officials who have been divorced from the masses, refused to remould themselves, developed an addiction to the perks of power and become bureaucrat capitalists.

They have turned their backs on their class standpoint and on class struggle. They have renounced the spirit and lessons of the October Revolution and the teachings of Lenin on imperialism, classical revisionism and reaction, state and revolution, and the continued waging of the socialist revolution, socialist construction and cultural revolution.

All proletarian revolutionary forces are faced with the great challenge of struggling against modern revisionism and for socialism and communism. They must draw lessons from the October Revolution, both in terms of the victories attained and the errors and neglect committed.

They must reaffirm and hold fast to revolutionary theory and correct practice in order to continue advancing the proletarian revolution and the renewed triumph of socialism. This is necessary for them to fulfill their historic duty of advancing the two-stage proletarian revolution in their respective countries. This is likewise necessary to defend socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat against any and all attempts by modern revisionism and imperialism to weaken and defeat it.

They must also belie the sinister propaganda of imperialists and reactionaries that socialism died after the revisionists destroyed the Soviet Union and other previously established socialist states and systems.

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Migrante scores Arroyo regime for neglecting Ranario

MIGRANTE International and the family and friends of condemned overseas worker Marilou Ranario strongly assailed the Arroyo regime for neglecting her welfare. Ranario, a teacher who migrated to Kuwait in 2003 to work as a domestic helper was sentenced to death for killing her female employer in January 2005. Trial records revealed that her employer had frequently beat her up, which probably drove Ranario to kill her. The highest court in Kuwait affirmed her sentence last November 27 and her execution has been scheduled.

Ranario's fate is now in the hands of Kuwaiti president Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber, the only person with the authority to grant her a pardon should the family of the deceased accept the payment of blood money. Migrante scored the Arroyo regime for its grave neglect of the Ranario case despite calls from the international community on the Arroyo government to work for her release. The government dilly-dallied taking action on the case despite having been promptly informed by Migrante, and despite reports that Ranario is ill, mentally unbalanced, often stares blankly into space and is incoherent.

Migrante said there are currently 73,000 Filipinos working in the Middle East—60,000 of them women mostly employed as domestic helpers and receiving an average salary of \$200 a month.

There are also currently 35 Filipinos on death row in various countries.

Pro-Arroyo congressmen on junket to Spain

UP to 200 of Gloria Arroyo's cronies and their families accompanied Arroyo on her nine-day visit to Spain and the United Kingdom that started on December 1.

The delegation was scandalously large, especially since an estimated US\$9,000 was allotted for 34 congressmen, their spouses and other companions; three senators; 50 businessman-allies; Gloria Arroyo's husband Mike; and their three children and four grandchildren.

Airplane tickets for each member of the delegation cost \$5,000. Each of them also received a hotel allowance of US\$500 per night and a per diem of US\$3,000 as a reward for not supporting the latest impeachment case against Arroyo.

The opposition assailed not only the huge expenses incurred by Arroyo's allies, but the fact that the junket took place in the middle of Congress' session.

10 policemen killed in ambush by guerrillas in India

TEN policemen were killed in an ambush by Maoist guerrilla forces last November 29 in Dantewada district in India's Chhatisgarh state. Months before this, 115 policemen were also killed in an ambush by the people's army in Dantewada. Chhatisgarh state is one of 13 states where Maoist guerrillas advancing the interests of poor peasants are active.